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Army and Navy, on Military Law, Foreign Relations, and the General Conclusion by Mr. Levasseur, relate to present conditions, and can easily be controlled through official documents and modern statistics.

That the chapters are all equally well written is self-evident when we consider the literary standing of their authors. The unique faculty of agreeably alternating the necessarily dry with lucid expositions and explanation, for which French literature is justly renowned, impresses the reader throughout the work. It is greatly to be regretted that it is so frequently marred by lack of knowledge of the past and of practical acquaintance with the country and people.

A. F. B.

The Face of the Earth (*Das Antlitz der Erde*). By Eduard Suess.

Translated by Hertha B. C. Sollas under the direction of W. J. Sollas. Vol. I, pp. xii, 604. 4 maps, 2 pl. and 48 text ill. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1904.

The English-speaking world is to be congratulated upon being furnished with a translation into its own language by a master of geologic science of the classic work of the great Suess, father of modern physiography. Published originally in Germany in 1885, and later in a masterly French translation (1897), the first volume of *The Face of the Earth* has been familiar for years to the scientific public, and has had profound influence upon scientific thought and research. It would be a work of supererogation at this late date to undertake an exhaustive criticism of Suess's work, but a few words may be said to extend the knowledge of the clearest, the most instructive, and the most fascinating treatise extant upon the origin and history of the surface features of the globe.

The Face of the Earth epitomizes the work done in a century by scores and hundreds of geological observers, and even goes back to the beginnings of tradition, as well as history, in describing or tracing geologically recent changes in the configuration of our planet. Suess's work shows marvellous erudition and wide reading, but withal his statements are so well founded and his thoughts are so clearly and simply expressed that, in the words of another, "each fact becomes an argument, and the problems develop and in part solve themselves under the very eyes of the reader." The mode of presentation of facts and theories which characterizes and illumines *The Face of the Earth* cannot be considered unique, since it is employed in many treatises on geology and geography; but the master mind is revealed in the manner of applying the method to the earth as a whole, and in so marshalling facts in their proper relations and true proportions as to give a complete conception of the evolution of the globe, without striving to make the phenomena of nature conform to any preconceived or pet theories of the author.

One cannot appreciate the grandeur of Suess's work without knowing something of the preceding generalizations of Leopold von Buch and Élie de Beaumont, the appearance of which excited as much admiration in their day as has that of the work now under consideration in ours. Von Buch's theories have, indeed, been largely abandoned; but he first called attention to the relations between the great lines of volcanic activity and the grand systems of mountains, and he first introduced order into the study of the complex mountains of central Europe.

Geology has also outlived the geometrical earth-system of de Beaumont; but he was the first to show that the age of mountains could be determined, and that they were not all made at one time. Nor must we forget the work of other early masters of geologic science. Lyell added the idea of the permanence of the

action of geologic forces, though he scarcely touched the fundamental questions of mountain-formation. Suess himself, in his preface to the English translation of *Das Antlitz der Erde*, refers to the proposition advanced by De la Beche in 1846 that "the foldings of the mountains of South Wales correspond to adaptation to a complicated lateral pressure," as being the real foundation and inspiration of his own work. Suess first made known the result of his studies in a little brochure entitled "*Die Entstehung der Alpen*" (*The Origin of the Alps*), in which one finds an advance statement of most of the ideas which have been so completely elaborated in his monumental work.

By a masterly array of facts, culled from all sources and thoroughly digested, Suess describes in broad terms in this volume several of the principal mountain-chains of the globe, the chief plateaux, and the mediterranean seas, comparing the features of one continent or province with those of another as critically as the explorations and reports would permit, since, as he says, the history of the earth is of fundamental importance in the description of the earth. He finds no evidence in support of the "elevation crater" theory of von Buch, and he determines the beautifully simple and mathematical geometric lines of de Beaumont to be equally contrary to the facts. All the phenomena show that in the surface of the earth we have to deal with a rigid crust which presents everywhere the results of accommodation to lateral pressure. The trend-lines of mountain-chains are seldom straight. On the contrary, they are, as a rule, curves of accommodation to lateral pressure, and sometimes they are strongly bent. The Alps, for example, yielding to pressure from the northwest, extend in a concave curve toward the Carpathians, avoiding the older Bohemian land-mass.

The last chapter of the volume sums up the comparative studies of the preceding portion of the book. It classifies the continental land-masses, aside from Australasia, which is not discussed for lack of data, into the units of (1) Indo-Africa, (2) Eurasia advancing toward (1) in a series of great folds, (3) South America, and (4) North America. Structurally the elevated land-masses may be separated into four principal groups: (1) the tablelands, or plateaux; (2) the horsts, or mountain areas, which have been left by the slipping down of surrounding portions of the earth's crust, (3) the folds, and (4) the volcanic mountains.

The stresses which result from the contraction of the outer part of the body of the earth are transformed into tangential folding and vertical subsidence. Many regions, like Indo-Africa, have experienced no kind of folding movement for a long time; but they have affected the advance of the great folded ranges, like those of southern Eurasia. Subsidence, or collapse, is to be seen much more widely, since at one time or another it has affected the whole surface of the globe. The mediterranean seas and the largest oceans owe their origin and enlargement to the subsidences, which have collected the waters together and permitted the continents to rise above the level of the sea, rendering possible the existence of animals which breathe by means of lungs.

The English translation by Professor Sollas has followed the original paragraph by paragraph and chapter by chapter, retaining the vivid personal style employed by Suess. Occasionally, indeed, the original has been followed too closely for the purity of the English diction. In fact, the only general adverse criticism that can be made regarding the work is that it is a literal translation and nothing more. The twenty years that have elapsed since the preparation of the original have seen many advances in geologic science, and the results of

many valuable researches have been published, but these have not been referred to in any way in the work under review. When the French version of *Das Antlitz der Erde* was prepared, the references to important literature were brought up to date, with annotations, greatly enhancing the usefulness of the book. The English translation would have been much more acceptable and valuable had a similar plan been followed; had the meagre illustrations of the original been supplemented, as in the French edition, by some of the many that are available, and had the volume been supplied with an index. Both the German and the French editions lack indexes, however; but Americans, at any rate, dislike to hunt for particular items in such a vast storehouse of facts while waiting for years for the last volume of a series to appear with its general index. The English edition is good in that it has followed the French in putting the notes at the bottom of the pages to which they refer, instead of keeping them together at the end of the chapter, as in the original.

This English edition of Suess is a most welcome addition to the library not only of the geologist, but also of the general student of nature who desires to get a clear, broad conception of the surface of the earth. E. O. H.

A Home Geography of New York City. By **Gustave Straubenmüller**, District Superintendent of Schools, New York City. 12mo. Boston, Ginn & Co., (1905). (Price, 60 cents.)

This admirable text-book is planned to be given to children for the first book studied in geography. It gives the pupils of the Metropolis a clear, concise, yet comprehensive view of the great city in which they live. Every fact in the book should be known by every resident of the city, and these facts are presented so simply and logically that young children will probably be able to grasp and assimilate the material presented to them.

The book marks advance in the teaching of geography. The maps first studied are not those of the hemispheres, of which children know absolutely nothing, but of the school-room and the school-grounds, the parks, the city streets, with which they are more or less familiar. It is astonishing to find how little even high-school pupils know in regard to the geography of their own cities. There are many children living in New York City who have never seen the elevated railroad or a subway station. Many of these children will spend their lives within the limits of New York; and if this book is properly taught, it will undoubtedly be a valuable part of their public-school education.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with Local Geography, and the second part gives Stories of Local History. The stories are so arranged as to lead the child through the paths of historical changes in as logical a manner as possible.

The book opens with exercises on the construction and reading of maps. Beginning with the map of the desk at which the pupil sits, this exercise in scale and proportion is developed through the school-room, the school-house, the school-grounds, the street, the nearest park or square, and finally leads to the reading of maps of various parts of the city. Maps of the city showing relief, physical features, political divisions, the harbor, etc., are given. Bird's-eye views are made a prominent feature, the author regarding them as most helpful devices.

The questions of transportation, manufactures, homes of the people, immigration, ferries, parks, museums, schools, churches, and libraries are considered and briefly discussed. The city government is taken up under the various heads: The